

# Tidy Towns Competition 2006

## *Adjudication Report*

Centre: **Curraghboy** Ref: **288**  
County: **Roscommon** Mark: **198**  
Category: **A** Date(s): **03/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	30
The Built Environment	50	29
Landscaping	50	19
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	15
Litter Control	50	29
Waste Minimisation	20	5
Tidiness	30	15
Residential Areas	40	15
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	35
General Impression	10	6
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>198</b>

### **Overall Development Approach:**

Curraghboy is a very unique village due to the complete and orderly organisation of the structure of the village. The Farneys wall runs the entire length of the village and the straightness of which dictates the order of all village development is a remarkable feature. Very good work has been done in achieving all the qualities of the village to date and it is good to see more work planned for the future. Since walls are a significant feature of this village it is well to extend this idea as you plan. The map and explanations of the buildings presented with the entry form was most helpful at adjudication.

### **The Built Environment:**

The wall must first be acknowledged – this is a magnificent wall and together with the lovely lamp standards- (ideally suited to the context without being over ornamental), and the well marked road a very strong picture of the village emerges in total contrast with the tunnel of trees on the approach road from Athlone. Buildings are in very good state of repair. Some work is needed at Cummins petrol pump buildings and at an area near Mentons Post Office. The church looks extremely well with the very attractive colour scheme which stands out well within the stone and tarmacadamming context. Restoring the telephone box was a good idea as these are fast disappearing as time goes by.

### **Landscaping:**

The landscape aspect of the village would be worth spending time considering. The lack of trees and shrubs along the long wall stretch makes this feature stark while orderly and crisp and clean. One idea would be gain permission to plant trees at intervals to the inside of the wall and in this way create a one sided avenue of trees which would provide a beautiful scene for future generations. This could be your gesture to leave a legacy of trees to future generations as we have been left a similar legacy with the beech trees on the Athlone road. The people who planted these trees could never have hoped to see the trees reach their maturity as

they are today – these trees will not last forever, we owe a similar legacy to the next few generations. Another idea would be to place blocks of shrubs at intervals along the road similar to the arrangement in Knockcroghery. The church grounds are a credit to Fr. Lee and everyone else who has helped produce such a beautiful garden. Many houses have nice garden road frontages and these contribute well to the overall landscape of the village. The tidy towns pots positioned through the town provide a nice sparkle of summer colour. The tree and shrub planting at McDermott's was noted.

#### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The pond described at the Church garden is a nice idea and fish are always interesting to watch in a pool. A broader view of the need for areas that the natural environment could be appreciated and enjoyed within the village is needed. Perhaps there is a nearby wood, wild area, river or otherwise that could be developed. Maybe a wildlife garden could be developed in a nearby place or at the school. Consult the tidy towns handbook in regard to this.

#### **Litter Control:**

Good litter control is in place within the village. The passing traffic can be troublesome in this regard. The recycling bins are a good idea and these are well placed and kept clean. The No Dumping signs hopefully will also help the situation. The weekly clean up appears to be paying off well and well done to those you voluntarily collect rubbish each week. The group picture enclosed shows the level of commitment to the litter picking.

#### **Waste Minimisation:**

The recycle bins go some way towards achieving the purpose here – extra recycling of many more products would be useful and segregation of materials. This aspect of the competition is about concentrating both on the need to choose materials and methods that avoid producing waste and to consider environmentally friendly ways of dealing with the waste that is generated. A campaign of awareness with both homeowners and business people needs to be started to give an understanding of the importance of waste management and recycling. Compost heaps can be made for green materials, avoidance of using materials that do not degrade easily and separation of the various materials so that they can be recycled.

#### **Tidiness:**

There is a very tidy appearance throughout the village helped by the extremely long wall, good road surfaces and lamps without over head cables. The work at the new houses towards the Athlone side are causing some disruption and untidiness by the roadsides but hopefully this will be resolved quickly and the areas fully reinstated that have been disturbed.

#### **Residential Areas:**

There is a relatively small number of residences and luckily to date this village has not been overburdened with the new housing estates that seem to be disturbing many surrounding villages. The houses appear very well and are very well maintained giving a nice aspect to the road frontage thereby improving the overall appearance of the village. The new housing is of high quality and will merge well with the existing housing.

#### **Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

As stated many times above the road through the village is indeed remarkable. The approach roads quickly return to the very rural setting which is good. Surfaces are very good and markings clear. Traffic speed is an issue to be dealt with.

#### **General Impression:**

Curraghboy is an interesting village to visit and the work of the tidy towns committee is very evident. Well done for all the achievements over the years which have taken this village to the standards now pertaining.